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## "Think Tank" Put On the Defensive

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IDA, A GOVERNMENT "think tank" that has thought up ripostes to nuclear missiles and sandal-clad guerrillas, is hung up now with defectors—its own.

Already the faculties at Princeton and the University of Chicago—two of the 12 academic participants in the Institute for Defense Analyses — have voted to withdraw. And the seeds of defection are known to be sprouting on at least two other campuses.

It's just that it has become embarrassing lately to be attached to IDA. The antiwar Students for a Democratic Society has managed to put IDA in the same collegiate doghouse with Dow Chemical Co., the CIA and Marine Corps recruiters. The problem is that the SDS has strong, vocal chapters today in Ivy League and other prestigious campuses that IDA turned to in the non-activist 1950s.

BEING IN THE doghouse is something new for IDA. It was sired by Defense out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and four other universities in 1956, because Defense had trouble keeping civilian experts to run its Weapons Systems Evaluation Group. Seven others joined later. IDA differs from other Defense-fed, nonprofit researchers, like RAND, Stanford Research Institute, Research Analysis Corporation and the rest in that it thinks for the Secretary of Defense rather than individual services. Its corporate setup of 12 governing universities is also unusual. Others are normally affiliated with one institution.

Over the years Defense has pumped more than \$75 million into IDA's research, most of it marked secret. Yet it is only in the last year or so that the mention of a connection with IDA has produced nervous coughs behind academic palms.

From all accounts SDS is pushing for a similar alienation from IDA at the University of Michigan and at Columbia University. IDA officials here feel that any sizable defection would be a serious, perhaps crippling blow to the Institute's integrity.

IDA feels it must remain above suspicion. This is the pitch it is making to the universities through its vice president, Dr. Gordon J. F. MacDonald, and to a lesser extent through its president, Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, former Ambassador to South Vietnam and continuing special assistant to President Johnson.

The tone of a recent brochure by and about IDA conveys its preoccupation with being known as a free agent.

Yet some sympathetic university men think IDA is overdoing the hand-wringing about its posture of academic purity. They feel that it has graduated from the days when it had to prove itself to be unfettered by the military.

"My feeling is that IDA has developed an academic atmosphere so that it is strong enough to attract the people it wants," Dr. A. Adrian Albert said in an interview.

He is dean of physical sciences at Chicago, and as his university's trustee at IDA he was at its board meeting here when his faculty peers voted—as he had foreseen—to withdraw. He will continue as a trustee because he serves in an individual capacity.

He added that there had never been the slightest hint that he should drop that trusteeship, even from faculty members who have been the more vocal critics of foreign policy, particularly regarding Vietnam.

THE SITUATION at Princeton is probably touchier. Since 1958 IDA's Communications Research Division has been situated on the campus to conduct, as IDA says, "studies in communication matters related to national security." That would include code breaking, among other things. The presence of CRD has perhaps added luster to Princeton's mathematics community, but it has also provided a target for the SDS contingent.

When its faculty somewhat reluctantly faced up to the question of its association with IDA, it voted to back away from it but not to reject it as an undesirable entity.

"Our conclusions are based on an evaluation of institutional relationships," the faculty statement said, "not of foreign policy."

IDA feels that if there must be a change in its relationship with the 12 campuses, or any others that might care to join, it should be done discreetly. It would not be too difficult, some officials feel, to work out a new corporate structure that would preserve IDA's integrity as well as that of the universities.

But IDA's big fear is that the cloistral calm of its dialogue with the universities might not survive a war of nerves mounted by the SDS.